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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Finland

Paper submitted by Finland**

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1. A DISCUSSION OF GOALS AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

1.1. The objective of the **field collection** of toponyms is to collect and archive all the geographical names, those referring to inhabited places as well as natural features. The collection is carried out systematically by interviewing the permanent inhabitants of each region. The collectors have linguistic training as well as special practice in the collection of names. A handbook for collectors, Terho Itkonen's sixty-seven page **Nimestäjän opas** (The Name Collector's Guide) appeared in 1961. This was followed in 1965 by a publication giving detailed instructions concerning the linguistic standardization of place names, Viljo Nissilä's **Paikannimistömme huolto ja suojelu** (The Treatment and Maintenance of our Place Names, 117 pages). The principles followed in the collection and standardization of the onomastic material correspond to the recommendation issued at the first United Nations conference (Geneva 1967 Recommendation 4.B).

The collections of names are intended to serve official treatment of names, cartography, the authorities in different fields, and scientific research, primarily onomastics, but the interests of research in dialectology, history, folklore, zoology, botany, geology, limnology, and other fields are also served.

Between 1987 and 1991 the Finnish toponym collections increased by 106,000 archive cards. The material collected as of now includes a total of 2.5 million names. These original name cards have been arranged alphabetically by municipalities and copies of the information have been arranged into a uniformly alphabetized collection of all the place names in the country. It has been estimated that approximately 4% of the place names in Finland have not yet been collected. During the current year field work will be continued in nineteen municipalities. According to plans, the work should be concluded during this decade. Collection in the Swedish-speaking part of Finland was concluded in 1986. The Onomastic Division of the Research Centre for Domestic Languages has been responsible for the collection of Finnish place names and the Swedish Language Division of the Research Centre for Swedish names. Financing has been provided by the State.

1.2. **Toponymic data files.** - The **place name bank** project was begun at the Onomastic Division in 1991. The first goal has been to create a database from a 10% sampling of original collections of place names, that is to say, something on the order of 280,000 entries. The municipalities in the sample have been selected on an equal basis from all over the country so that the database would provide as representative a picture of the toponyms in different types of areas as possible. As of this writing (May 1992) the place name bank contains 26,000 entries.

The data base called **the Names of Inhabited Places in Finland** (Suomen asutusnimet) consists the names of the Finnish municipalities, cities, villages, hamlets, and districts. The data base compiled by the Onomastic Division contains about 21 000 records, and it will be updated periodically. A gazetteer **Alastarolla Ylistarossa** based on this data file was published by Ritva Korhonen in 1990.

The real estate register is kept by the National Land Survey of Finland. When the computerization of the register is completed it will involve the numeric conversion of all existing real estate date. By the end of 1991 the project was running on schedule, with 81% of this data and one third of all cadastral maps filed in the register numerically. In addition to containing the names of cities and parishes, the register also includes the names of villages and farmsteads. The register contains an estimated two million names of inhabited places.

The most important cartographic projects and the registers of names connected with them. The National Land Survey of Finland has kept **the basic map** (1:20,000) completed in 1977 up to date. This map, consisting of 3,750 sheets each covering an area of 10 x 10 km^2, covers the entire country. The map contains almost a million names. All the names have been checked by specialists in onomastics, for which reason the names on the basic map are regarded as having official status. The information contained in the basic map, including place names, is being completely digitized. The database will, as required, be used in the compilation of different types

of maps and other geographical products, statistics, etc. The digitizing of the basic map will be completed by the end of the decade.

The topographic map (1:50,000) published by the National Land Survey of Finland is also derived from the basic map. The map is produced digitally. As of now thirty-six sheets have been produced and the entire set of maps will comprise 360 sheets. Updated versions of these maps will be printed every fifth year. The topographic map will be completed by the year 2000. It will contain about 350,000 names, this being a third of the material contained in the basic map.

The GT map (1:200,000) consists of nineteen sheets. It is revised at intervals of between three and five years. The map contains approximately 60,000 place names which have also been stored as a database. In principle, the names represent those which have been officially approved, since it is based on the names of the checked basic map. The GT map is published by the Map Centre (Karttakeskus).

The General Road Map (1:1,600,000) is updated and published annually by Map Centre (Karttakeskus). The index of place names on the reverse side of the map contains approximately 1,500 names from Finland and approximately 400 names from neighboring countries. The names as well as other information on the map has been computerized.

2. A DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

In Finland **the official treatment** of Finnish names is the responsibility of the Onomastic Division, with the corresponding responsibility for Swedish names being borne by the Swedish Language Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages. Since 1987 the major projects have been 1) the correction of names in maps which have been published, 2) the checking of proposals for names of roads, and 3) the acquisition and provision of information concerning changes in names and their spelling or pronunciation in foreign countries.

2.1. Ensuring that the names on maps do not contain mistakes continued in the traditional manner on a cooperative basis between the Onomastic Division and the National Land Survey of Finland. Since the Fifth UN Conference in Montreal, 1987, 1,121 sheets of the 1:20,000 scale Finnish Basic Map have ben updated, with all the approximately 262,000 names they contain revised. Only Finnish names were found on 935 sheets, only Swedish names on 66 sheets, Finnish and Swedish names were found on 54 sheets, while Finnish and Sámi names were found on 68 sheets.

2.2. The responsibility for planning the systematic naming of roads in sparsely populated regions, in addition to urban areas, was handed over to the municipalities in 1988. The purpose was to create a comprehensive, clear, and consistent nationwide system of addresses for postal services, traffic, emergencies and the like. A prerequisite for such a network is the naming of roads. In Finland tens of thousands of names for roads are needed. The new system of addresses will gradually change the traditional manner in which names are used so that, for example, using the names of farmsteads will decrease. The plans drawn up by the municipalities for naming roads have been checked by the Onomastic Division within the limits permitted by resources. The relevant local officials have been informed of the basic guidelines for creating names by mail as well as by radio and the press.

2.3. The use of foreign names in the Finnish mass media according to the recommendations approved by the UN Conferences on Standardization of Geographical Names has encountered more difficulties during the past few years than was formerly the case. The troubles are caused by changes in names and the flow of names of places which never before have been mentioned in everyday news. Those place names appear transliterated in various ways in the press releases coming from news agencies using different languages, nor is it really possible to check the reliability of the information quickly. Contacts between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the

Onomastic Division, and the mass media have been improved in order to ensure that new foreign names are used correctly.

3. PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

The most important maps published since 1987 have been mentioned under the 1.2 of the report.

Maiden nimet suomeksi, ruotsiksi, englanniksi ja ranskaksi (A List of country names in Finnish, Swedish, English and French). Helsinki 1987, 102 pgs. Edited by Eeva Maria Närhi. A new, updated edition also including names in Sámi and German will be published in 1992.

Ritva Korhonen, **Alastarolla Ylistarossa** (A gazetteer of names of inhabited places in Finland and the declension of the names). Helsinki 1990, 555 pgs. - The gazetteer gives the name in standard Finnish as well as its declension, the entity and location (the municipality and village) of the place, and the alternative name if it exists. The book contains approximately 20,000 entries.

Eero Kiviniemi, **Perustietoa paikannimistä** (Basic Information on toponyms). Helsinki 1990, 243 pgs. - The book covers the most general generic and specific terms pertaining to Finnish toponyms, the most common names, and principles for giving names.

Finnish Onomastics, Studia Fennica 34. Heisinki 1990, 140 pgs. Edited by Heikki Leskinen and Eero Kiviniemi.

Kurt Zilliacus, **Skärgårdsnamn** (Toponyms in the Archipelago). Borgå 1989, 251 pgs. The book covers the most general generic and specific terms pertaining to Swedish toponyms and the names of islands, and gives detailed information on the origin of the names.

The 17th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was held in Helsinki from the 13th to the 18th of August, 1990. The theme of the sixth section of the congress, 'Treatment and maintenance of names on maps, official names in bi- or multilingual areas, official naming procedures, compatibility and structure of onomastic data files (e.g. classification of entities), names and the lexicon, name atlases', was directly related to the work of the UNGEGN.

The Congress report and most of the presentations have been published:
Proceedings of the XVIIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences. Helsinki 1990. Volume 1, 501 pgs. and Volume 2, 494 pgs. Ed. Eeva Maria Närhi.

The 7th International Finno-ugric Congress was held in Debrecen in Hungary from the 27th of August to the 2nd of September, 1990. The papers given at the Congress have been published 1990 in ten volumes, edited by László Jakab, László Keresztes, Antal Kiss, Sándor Maticsák in Debrecen.

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